

REMARKS

In section 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 10, 11, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Watson patent.

The Watson patent shows a switch assembly 10 having a contact switch 22, a base 12, an optional light source 14, a cap 16, and an actuator 18. The contact switch 22 is mounted directly to a circuit board 20. Each lateral side 34 of the base 12 has a slot 36 through which tabs 38 of the actuator 18 project. A bottom 30 of the base 12 is positioned on, and attached to, the circuit board 20 such that the contact switch 22 and actuator 18 fit within an interior cavity 32 of the base. The base 12 also has circuitry 29 that connects to the circuit board 20 to transmit electrical power from the circuit board to the optional light source 14 mounted on the base.

The optional light source 14 is used when the switch assembly 10 is illuminated to indicate that the switch function is on or has changed status. The optional light source 14 illuminates the cap which can include indicia such as letters, numbers, or symbols.

When present, the optional light source 14 is mounted to the top 28 of the base 12 and is powered by

the conductive materials or electronic circuits 29. There may also be more than one light source in a particular switch, such as where the switch controls a function that can have more than two statuses. The optional light source 14 may be light emitting diodes (LED), organic light emitting diodes, electro-luminescent lamps, incandescent lamps, LCD, or other lighted display technologies.

When pushed by a user, the cap 16 actuates the contact switch 22 via the actuator 18, and also provides a visual and tactile interface for the user. The cap 16 comprises a lower portion 40 and an upper portion 42. The lower portion 40 has an interior cavity 44 to slidably receive the base 12. The upper portion 42 is attached to the lower portion 40 and has a lens 48 at the end opposite the lower portion 40. The lens 48 may have indicia such as letters, numbers or symbols thereon to indicate, for example, the function operated by the switch. The lens 48 is used when the switch assembly 10 is illuminated by the optional light source 14.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a push button switch having a housing, a switch actuator, an organic light emitting diode display, and a switch. The switch actuator is supported by the housing and is

moveable along a switch actuator axis. The organic light emitting diode display is supported by the housing in a position to be viewable by a user of the push button switch. The switch is supported by the housing so as to be operable by the switch actuator when the switch actuator moves relative to the housing, and the housing is elongated along the switch actuator axis.

The Examiner asserts that the Watson patent discloses that the optional light source 14 can be an organic light emitting diode. However, independent claim 1 recites an organic light emitting diode display. Because it is a display, the organic light emitting diode display of independent claim 1 displays information to a user of the push button switch.

By contrast, the optional light source 14 as disclosed in the Watson patent is used merely for illumination purposes. Therefore, the Watson patent does not disclose an organic light emitting diode display.

Accordingly, the Watson patent does not anticipate independent claim 1.

Independent claim 5 is directed to a push button switch comprising a housing, a switch actuator, an organic light emitting diode display, a switch, and a controller circuit. The housing has a display housing

portion and an elongated housing portion extending perpendicularly away from the display portion. The switch actuator is movably supported by the elongated housing portion. The organic light emitting diode display is supported by the display housing portion in a position to be viewable by a user of the push button switch. The switch is supported by the elongated housing portion so as to be operable by the switch actuator when the switch actuator moves relative to the housing. The controller circuit is supported by the housing and is coupled so as to control the organic light emitting diode display in response to the switch.

Like independent claim 1, independent claim 5 recites an organic light emitting diode display. Because it is a display, the organic light emitting diode display of independent claim 5 displays information to a user of the push button switch.

By contrast, the optional light source 14 as disclosed in the Watson patent is used merely for illumination purposes. Therefore, the Watson patent does not disclose an organic light emitting diode display.

Accordingly, the Watson patent does not anticipate independent claim 5.

Independent claim 15 is directed to an assembly comprising a push button switch and a controller circuit. The push button switch has a housing, a switch actuator movably supported by the housing, an organic light emitting diode display supported by the housing in a position to be viewable by a user of the push button switch, and a switch supported by the housing so as to be operable by the switch actuator when the switch actuator moves relative to the housing. The housing has at least a portion that is elongated in a direction extending perpendicularly away from the organic light emitting diode display, and the switch is supported by the elongated portion of the housing. The controller circuit is electrically coupled to the push button switch so as to control the organic light emitting diode display in response to operation of the switch.

Similarly, independent claim 15 recites an organic light emitting diode display. Because it is a display, the organic light emitting diode display of independent claim 15 displays information to a user of the push button switch.

By contrast, the optional light source 14 as disclosed in the Watson patent is used merely for

illumination purposes. Therefore, the Watson patent does not disclose an organic light emitting diode display.

Accordingly, the Watson patent does not anticipate independent claim 15.

Because independent claims 1, 5, and 15 are patentable over the Watson patent, dependent claims 2-4, 10, 11, and 16 are likewise patentable over the Watson patent.

In addition, dependent claim 4 recites that the organic light emitting diode display is mounted to the switch actuator so as to move with the switch actuator.

By contrast, the Watson patent shows that the optional light source 14 is stationary and, therefore, the Watson patent does not disclose or suggest the invention of dependent claim 4.

Accordingly, the Watson patent does not anticipate independent claim 4.

In section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12-14 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Watson patent in view of the Conigliaro patent.

The Conigliaro patent discloses a mailbox 10 having a normally open switch 48 that is momentarily closed when the door 20 of the mailbox 10 is opened.

When the switch 48 momentarily closes, a transmitter 52 transmits a signal to a receiver 16 mounted on a house 14. When the receiver 16 receives a signal, it energizes a buzzer 140 and a light 40 to signal the occupants that mail has arrived. The occupants reset the receiver 16 by pushing the plunger 164.

As can be seen, the Conigliaro patent also does not disclose an organic light emitting diode display as required by independent claims 5 and 15. Accordingly, the combination of the Watson patent and the Conigliaro patent does not teach the inventions of independent claims 5 and 15 such that independent claims 5 and 15 are patentable over the Watson patent in view of the Conigliaro patent.

Because independent claims 5 and 15 are patentable over the Watson patent in view of the Conigliaro patent, dependent claims 12-14 and 21-23 are likewise patentable over the Watson patent in view of the Conigliaro patent.

Moreover, dependent claims 13 and 22 recite that a controller circuit is programmed from a remote station by way of a receiving device to change displays of the organic light emitting diode display. Neither the Watson patent nor the Conigliaro patent discloses the

changing of displays. Accordingly, the combination of the Watson patent and the Conigliaro patent does not teach the inventions of dependent claims 13 and 22 such that dependent claims 13 and 22 are patentable over the Watson patent in view of the Conigliaro patent.

New dependent claims 24, 26, and 28 recite that the housing is externally threaded for threaded attachment to a host device.

Neither the Watson patent nor the Conigliaro patent teaches the use of external threads to threadably attach a push button switch to a host device. Therefore, dependent claims 24, 26, and 28 are patentable over the Watson patent and/or the Conigliaro patent.

New dependent claims 25, 27, and 29 recite that the organic light emitting diode display is arranged to display variable words and/or graphics.

Neither the Watson patent nor the Conigliaro patent teaches an organic light emitting diode display that displays variable words and/or graphics. Therefore, dependent claims 25, 27, and 29 are patentable over the Watson patent and/or the Conigliaro patent.

New independent claim 30 is directed to a push button switch comprising a housing, a switch actuator, an organic light emitting diode display, and a switch. The



switch actuator is movably supported by the housing. The organic light emitting diode display is supported by the housing in a position to be viewable by a user of the push button switch, and the organic light emitting diode display is mounted to the housing so that organic light emitting diode display remains stationary as the switch actuator moves. The switch is supported by the housing so as to be operable by the switch actuator when the switch actuator moves relative to the housing.

Accordingly, independent claim 30 recites an organic light emitting diode display. Because it is a display, the organic light emitting diode display of independent claim 30 displays information to a user of the push button switch.

By contrast, the optional light source 14 as disclosed in the Watson patent is used merely for illumination purposes. Therefore, the Watson patent does not disclose an organic light emitting diode display. Similarly, the Conigliaro patent does not disclose an organic light emitting diode display.

Accordingly, independent claim 30 is patentable over the Watson patent and/or the Conigliaro patent.

Dependent claim 31 is patentable over the  
Watson patent and/or the Conigliaro patent because  
independent claim 30 is patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is clear that the claims of the present application are patentable over the art applied by the Examiner. Accordingly, allowance of these claims and issuance of the above captioned patent application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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